

**REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action of September 3, 2004. Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Fifth Response, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 16, 17, 19-21, and 23-43 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11, 12, 21, 24, 25, 28, 38, 40, and 43 are directly amended herein, and claims 5, 10, 14, and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer via the amendments set forth herein. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application. It is further believed that the amendments place the application in a condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The outstanding Office Action indicates that claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 20, 22, 38-40, and 43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their respective base claims. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include features from claim 5, and Applicants assert that claim 1 is allowable for similar reasons that claim 5 is allowable. Further, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form and includes features from its base claim 1. In addition, claim 7 has been amended herein to include features from claim 10, and Applicants assert that claim 7 is allowable for similar reasons that claim 10 is allowable. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form and includes features from its base claim 7. Claim 11 has been amended herein to include features from claim 14, and Applicants assert that claim 11 is allowable for similar reasons that claim 14 is allowable. Further, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form and includes features from its base claim 11. Claim 21 has been amended herein to include features from claim 22, and Applicants assert that claim 21 is allowable for

similar reasons that claim 22 is allowable. Further, claim 25 has been amended herein to include features similar to allowable claim 14, and Applicants assert that claim 25 is allowable for similar reasons that claim 14 is allowable. In addition, claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form and includes features from its base claim 1.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 21, 22, 25, and 38 are allowable. Furthermore, each of the remaining claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26-37, and 39-43 depends from at least one of the foregoing allowable claims. Thus, remaining claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26-37, and 39-43 are allowable as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

### CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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